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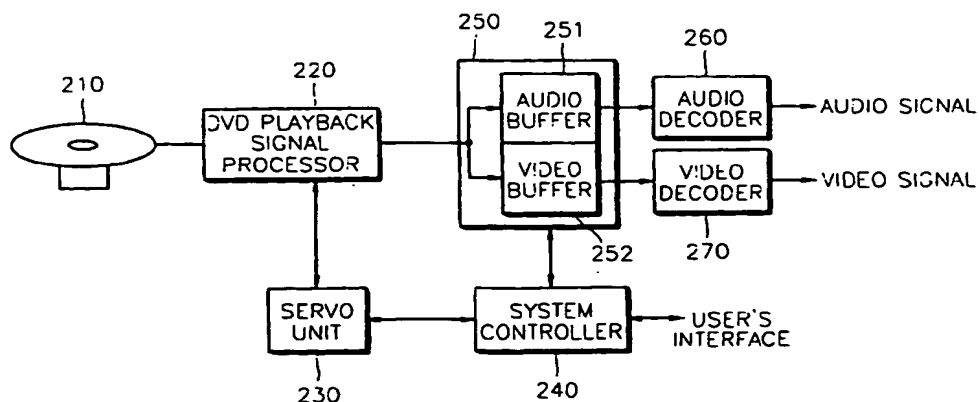
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(54) **Storage medium storing catalogue information and apparatus and method for playing back catalogue information**

(57) A storage medium for storing catalogue information and catalogue information playback apparatus and method are provided. By the method, catalogue information formed of a still picture and additional information together with audio data are recorded on a storage medium such as a DVD (210), which is an optical record storage medium, and the catalogue information is played back during playback of audio, to thereby pro-

vide various information on the audio. Also, the apparatus includes a buffer memory (250) for catalogue playback maintaining the predetermined standard and compatibility, and capable of real-time reading during playback of audio, and automatically playing back the catalogue content, corresponding to the playback state of the audio data, when there is no additional selection of a user.

FIG. 3



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of optical recording and/or playback, and more particularly, to a storage medium storing audio data and catalogue information related to the audio data and an apparatus and method for playing back catalogue information.

[0002] In an optical recording and/or playback apparatus in which a digital versatile disk (DVD) is used as a storage medium, a catalogue function, and an apparatus or method for performing the catalogue function has not been proposed.

[0003] In this context a catalogue typically indicates prints for effectively transferring to a viewer information on manufacturing audio as a main data recorded on the storage medium, the record contents, and the composer, the artist and/or a performer, or material and immaterial information for performing the same role. Particularly the catalogue is an additional data for illustrating the contents of the audio which is main data recorded on the storage medium, consisting of additional information such as still pictures and caption as a video information.

[0004] The catalogue data which is played back in a playback apparatus having a video decoder, preferably, has an inspecting function for reading the desired contents of the catalogue, without interfering with the playback of the audio.

[0005] It is also preferable that the catalogue information can be easily manufactured using the established editing system for DVD-Video.

[0006] In order to satisfy the above-described conditions, two types of information, i.e., audio and catalogue data of which are different functions in a storage medium must be simultaneously played back. Thus, even when the audio data is played back at the maximum transmission speed of the playback apparatus, a predetermined amount of the catalogue information must have already been played back and stored in a temporary storage, so that both the audio and the catalogue contents can be simultaneously played back.

[0007] That is, when the storage medium, in which information for forming the catalogue is stored, is inserted into a driver, a player or an editor, the catalogue information stored in the storage medium is read and stored in a temporary storage, i.e., a memory to be output in the form of an image if necessary. Here, in order to store the catalogue information read from the storage medium, in the memory, the image size must be defined, and further a method for effectively using the memory must be provided.

[0008] It is also preferable that navigation information, which has been proposed in the DVD-Video, i.e., search information added to the catalogue information such that a user can search an arbitrary catalogue page, and a specification for processing the search information must be provided. Further, an editing system manufacturing a catalogue corresponding to the specification

shares with an editing system according to the DVD-Video specification.

[0009] Here, the DVD-Read Only Memory (ROM) means a record medium defined by the physical specification of Part 1 of a DVD specification for read-only disc produced by Toshiba corporation and other companies in August, 1996 and the file system specification of Part 2 thereof. Also, the DVD-video means video edited by an image information recording method defined by the video specification of Part 3 thereof or a DVD-ROM disk in which the video is recorded.

[0010] It is an aim of embodiments of the present invention to provide a storage medium for storing catalogue information to satisfy the above-described conditions.

[0011] It is another aim to provide, playback apparatus and method for reading desired catalogue contents from catalogue information related to audio data, while the audio data stored in a DVD disk is played back.

[0012] It is still another aim of embodiments of the present invention to provide an apparatus and method for automatically accessing the location of the catalogue using real-time playback information extracted from audio data to be played back without command to read the catalogue in a predetermined location, while audio data stored in a DVD disk is played back.

[0013] According to a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a storage medium storing audio data and being capable of random accessing, wherein catalogue information related to the audio data is stored in a predetermined area of the storage medium.

[0014] Preferably, the catalogue information includes common catalogue data for information commonly applied for the entire audio data recorded on the storage medium and title catalogue data having information corresponding to each distinct item of the audio data.

[0015] The catalogue information may be image information produced by the DVD-Video specification, and wherein the storage medium includes a region for recording the audio data and an image information record region for recording the catalogue information.

[0016] The catalogue data may include a still picture for a background image, a sub-picture for a caption and navigation information for controlling the same.

[0017] The region for the audio data may include an audio data recording region for recording audio data and an audio information recording region for the entire audio data and/or audio data in units of distinct items of audio data and catalogue playback information connecting the audio data to the catalogue information during playback is stored in the audio information recording region.

[0018] The catalogue playback information may include information on the location of the image information recording region in which the catalogue is recorded.

[0019] The catalogue playback information may further include a file identifier (ID) and an auto playback information table determining a location of the catalogue

to be played back corresponding to a predetermined time in accordance with real-time playback information of audio obtained from the audio data during real-time playback.

[0020] According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a playback apparatus comprising: storing means for storing during playback audio data and catalogue information from a storage medium in which there are present audio data, catalogue information formed of information related to the audio data, and catalogue playback information connecting the audio data and the catalogue information to each other; a video decoder for providing an image restored by decoding the catalogue information and additional information; an audio decoder for providing audio signals restored by decoding the audio data; and a controller controlling to be played back catalogue information corresponding to a selection of a user and the catalogue playback information.

[0021] The catalogue information may include common catalogue data for information commonly applied for the entire audio data recorded on the storage medium and title catalogue data having information on each distinct item of the audio data, and the catalogue data selected by the user under the control of the controller is read from the storing means.

[0022] The catalogue data is preferably read from the storing means by a predetermined sequence.

[0023] The catalogue data stored in the storing means is preferably defined within a predetermined size.

[0024] The data size obtained by adding data of the common catalogue stored in the storing means to data of one selected from the plurality of title catalogues is preferably smaller than the capacity of the storing means.

[0025] The restored image is preferably a still picture for the background, and the additional information is a sub-picture for transferring characters.

[0026] According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for playing back data on the storage medium storing audio data, catalogue information formed of information related to the audio data, and catalogue playback information connecting the audio data and the catalogue playback information to each other during playback, comprising the steps of: (a) playing back the catalogue information corresponding to the catalogue playback information; and (b) playing back audio data corresponding to the played back catalogue information.

[0027] A region for the audio data preferably includes an audio data recording region for recording audio data and an audio information recording region for the entire audio data and/or audio data in units of distinct items of audio data where the catalogue playback information is stored in the audio information record region.

[0028] The storage medium may include a region for recording the audio data and an image information record region for recording the catalogue information,

and wherein the catalogue information includes common catalogue data for information in common applied for the entire audio data recorded on the storage medium and title catalogue data having information corresponding to each distinct item of the audio data.

[0029] The catalogue playback information preferably includes information on a location of the image information record region where the catalogue is recorded.

[0030] The catalogue playback information may further include a file identifier and an auto presentation information table determining a location of the catalogue to be played back corresponding to a predetermined time in accordance with real-time playback information of audio obtained from the audio data during real-time playing back.

[0031] The catalogue data is preferably played back according to a predetermined sequence stored in the auto presentation information table in step (a).

[0032] The catalogue data selected by selection of a user may be played back in step (a).

[0033] Preferably, the catalogue selected by selection of a user is preferentially played back in step (a), and otherwise the catalogue data satisfies predetermined conditions to be played back.

[0034] The predetermined condition may be the case of selecting no predetermined catalogue data for a predetermined time or setting a catalogue auto presentation mode.

[0035] Preferably, the storage medium comprises: an audio region in which the audio data is stored; and a video region in which the catalogue information is stored.

[0036] The audio region preferably comprises: the audio management (AMG) region having management information on the audio data, and a plurality of audio title sets (ATS) in which the audio data is recorded; and the video region preferably comprises: a video management (VMG) region having management information on the catalogue information, and a video title set (VTS) in which at least one title catalogue of the catalogue information related to each item of the audio data is recorded.

[0037] Preferably, the VTS comprises information on still pictures formed of a plurality of the title catalogue and sub-pictures relating to the audio data, and navigation information for controlling the information on the still pictures and the sub-picture.

[0038] Preferably, the AMG region comprises catalogue playback information to connect the audio data and the catalogue information during playback.

[0039] For a better understanding of the invention, and to show how embodiments of the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a digital versatile disk (DVD)-read only memory (ROM) structure of one dimension ac-

cording to an example of a storage medium storing catalogue information of the present invention;

Figure 2 is an example of a table showing catalogue playback information for playing back catalogue information according to the present invention; and

Figure 3 is a block diagram of an exemplary playback apparatus for playing back catalogue information according to the present invention.

[0040] Referring to Figure 1, the storage space of the entire DVD medium is a volume space 100, which includes a volume and file system region 110 having information on the volume and recorded file structure, a video region 120 for recording image information, an audio region 130 for recording audio data and an other file region 140.

[0041] The above data regions may have no information in the video region 120, and the catalogue data related to each music may exist in a predetermined area of the audio region 130, and the other file region 140 may or may not exist.

[0042] Also, the video region 120 and the audio region 130 may consist of a video management (VMG) region 121 and an audio management (AMG) region 131 having management information on the recorded image and audio, respectively and video title sets (VTS) 121 to 124 and audio title sets (ATS) 132 to 134, respectively, which are files in which the image and audio data are recorded. The VTS1 consists of a plurality of program chains (PGC) 125 to 128. Here, the PGC indicates a set of related data. The VTS1 file for the catalogue may have information on still pictures formed of a plurality of catalogues and sub-pictures, and navigation information for controlling the information on the still pictures and the sub-pictures. VTS2 to VTSn may have information other than the catalogue information. As shown in Figure 1, all image information related to the audio region 130 is stored in the VTS1 122, so that the video region may include only the VMG 121 and the VTS1 122.

[0043] Here, the structure of the information on the still picture and sub-picture, and the navigation, and the rules thereof are shown in the DVD-video specification.

[0044] Also, the catalogue information can be effectively used by dividing the catalogue information into one common catalogue PGC1 125 for the entire audio region and a plurality of title catalogues PGC2, PGC3, ..., PGCn+1 126, 127, 128 corresponding to each audio title recorded in the audio region 130. That is, a first audio title set (ATS1), i.e., the title of a catalogue related to a first item of music (such as a song) is stored in PGC2, and a second title set (ATS2), i.e., the title of a catalogue related to a second item of music is stored in PGC3, and thus the nth audio title set (ATSn), i.e., the title of a catalogue related to the nth item of music is stored in PGCn+1. The common catalogue and each title catalogue are formed in a unit of a program

chain (PGC) in the video title.

[0045] According to embodiments of the present invention, the catalogue playback information for connecting VTS and ATS to each other to play back is stored in the AMG region 131 or a predetermined region (information region) of the audio file. The AMG region 131 has a space for recording information on the entire audio region and each title, and a location of the catalogue information may be additionally recorded on the AMG region 131.

[0046] In an embodiment of the present invention, the catalogue playback information which is stored in the AMG region or the audio file region, may be stored in any location. Also, when the disk begins to be read, an appropriate means is provided capable of distinguishing whether there exists the catalogue playback information or not. The means may define the file names, a region of a disk predetermined by a physical or logical address may be designated as a space for storing catalogue playback information, or information indicates whether existence of a file in which the catalogue playback information is stored or not and a location of the file in the data region to be necessarily read such as a volume information region when the disk is read.

[0047] The catalogue playback information may include the location of the image information in which the catalogue is recorded, a file identifier (ID) and an auto presentation information table in which the location of the catalogue to be played back corresponding to the predetermined time according to real-time playback information of the audio obtained by real-time playback the audio.

[0048] In Figure 2, the file ID can recognize a file in which the catalogue playback information is recorded. A catalogue PGC number indicates the number corresponding to a common catalogue and a title catalogue in the video region in which the catalogue is recorded. A catalogue pointer indicates the location on the disk of a file or a PGC in which the catalogue is recorded.

[0049] Also, the auto presentation information table has playback time information capable of appropriately and automatically playing back the catalogue, using the real-time playback information obtained from the audio data while each recorded title is played back, and information on the playback location of the catalogue, so that the auto presentation information table has information on the still picture and the sub-picture to be played back within catalogues when a user has no commands while one title is played back.

[0050] In Figure 3, a signal read from a disk 210 is restored to a digital signal through a DVD playback processing unit 220 according to the physical specification of the DVD-ROM, to provide the restored signal to a buffer memory 250.

[0051] The restored digital signal is divided into audio data and video data under the control of a system controller 240 and the audio data of the DVD-Audio specification as an example is written in an audio buffer 251,

and video data of the DVD-Video specification as an example, i.e., catalogue data is written in a video buffer 252. At this time, the buffer memory 250 can use one memory space or an additional memory.

[0052] The catalogue data stored in the buffer memory 250 is read in accordance with a control signal generated by the system controller 240 and the read catalogue data is restored to an image signal to be output. At this time, the system controller 240 generates an appropriate control signal based on control commands of a user through a remote controller, the auto presentation information table according to catalogue playback information, real-time playback information extracted from the audio data, and navigation information of the catalogue data, such that the catalogue data stored on the video buffer 252 to be played back is output through the video decoder 270.

[0053] Meanwhile, the audio data of the DVD-Audio specification read from the audio buffer 251 is provided to the audio decoder 260 and the provided audio data is restored to an audio signal to be output.

[0054] Here, the video decoder 270 indicates a device restoring image data produced by the DVD-Video specification to an initial image and information added to the image. The apparatus for playing back the DVD-Video has already been produced and such apparatus is well-known to a person skilled in the art. Also, the audio decoder 260 restores the audio data consisting of the encoded audio data coded by linear pulse coded modulation (linear PCM) or a predetermined manner, management information for managing the audio data and real-time playback information to initial audio and additional information. The system controller 240 and a servo unit 230 controls the system to appropriately operate using the control commands from a user and various control signals obtained by playback signals.

[0055] Subsequently, playback operation will be described by a video buffer 252 writing and reading catalogue data shown in Figure 3.

[0056] The playback apparatus of Figure 3 must store information on the common catalogue and the title catalogue in the video buffer 252, before a predetermined audio title is played back. If not, desired catalogue information cannot be played back while the music is played back.

[0057] When either the common catalogue or the title catalogue is selected, the sum of the two catalogue data should be smaller than the memory capacity of the video buffer 252 for playing back the catalogue. Referring to Figure 1, assuming that the PGC1 125 is the common catalogue for the entire audio region, and the PCG2 126 is the audio title 1, i.e., the title catalogue 1 related to the first music, and the PCG3 127 is the title catalogue 2 for the second music, and the PGCn+1 128 is the title catalogue n for the nth music, the catalogue information required for playing back the music has the common catalogue information and the title catalogue for the music to be played back.

[0058] Meanwhile, the amount of buffer memory of the playback apparatus playing back the DVD-Video is approximately 4 MB (megabytes). This functions as a time buffer for resolving an inconsistency between a transmission speed of data read from the disk such as a variable buffer rate and a bit rate of audio played back in real-time or image information.

[0059] The conventional buffer must be used to play back audio in real-time, and an additional memory must be used to play back the catalogue. Thus, assuming that a memory of 16 MB is the entire buffer memory 250 when one memory is used, the memory size of the video buffer 252 for playing back the catalogue is 12MB. For instance, when the amount of the data of the common catalogue is 5MB, the amount of the title catalogue cannot exceed 7 MB.

[0060] Also, the title catalogue information for each title may not exist. When the sum of the entire catalogue data is smaller than the predetermined memory capacity of the video buffer 252, the catalogue is not classified to the common catalogue and the title catalogue, and the catalogue information on all music can be recorded in the common catalogue.

[0061] When the disk is played back initially, the system controller 240 reads volume information of the disk, the file system, and information on VMG and AMG. As described above, the PGC data in which the catalogue information exists is read from the video buffer 252 according to the catalogue playback information stored in the AMG region 131 or in a predetermined file. When required catalogue data is read, the audio information is read to provide the read audio information to the audio decoder 260 through the audio buffer 251, and the audio information is converted into an audio signal and the converted audio signal is output through the audio decoder 260.

[0062] Meanwhile, if a user selects the catalogue, i.e., if the user inputs commands for a desired catalogue through an input unit such as a remote controller for controlling the playback apparatus, the catalogue information predetermined catalogue data stored in the video buffer 252 corresponding to the input commands is provided to the decoder 270.

[0063] If the user does not input commands for playing back the predetermined catalogue, i.e., the user does not operate for a predetermined time, or the user sets an auto presentation mode, the contents stored in the video buffer 252 is output through the video decoder 270 to output an image of the predetermined catalogue using the information in the auto presentation information table.

[0064] At this time, the catalogue information consists of still pictures for the backgrounds and sub-pictures for transferring characters and the still pictures and the sub-pictures are controlled using the navigation information defined by the DVD-Video specification. Thus, compared to the case of using only still pictures, 32 sub-pictures can be selected from the DVD-Video, which

supports multiple languages.

[0065] Also, if the still picture includes character information, the increase in the resolution of the still picture is required for playing back the character information to distinct pictures, so that the compression ratio cannot be increased, and the background image and the character information are divided, so that the compression ratio for the background is increased, and characters can effectively be coded using a compression method for effectively compressing characters defined by the DVD-Video.

[0066] As described above, the catalogue function is realized using the DVD-Video specification, to thereby edit the catalogue for DVD-Audio using an editing system for the DVD-Video, and the playback apparatus for playing back the catalogue of the DVD-Audio plays back also the DVD-Video, to thereby minimize additional circuits.

[0067] Also, according to embodiments of the present invention, the predetermined DVD-Video specification is used, so that the character information of the catalogue is not processed as the still picture but as the sub-picture, to thereby enable multiple language.

[0068] The reader's attention is directed to all papers and documents which are filed concurrently with or previous to this specification in connection with this application and which are open to public inspection with this specification, and the contents of all such papers and documents are incorporated herein by reference.

[0069] All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), and/or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except combinations where at least some of such features and/or steps are mutually exclusive.

[0070] Each feature disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), may be replaced by alternative features serving the same, equivalent or similar purpose, unless expressly stated otherwise. Thus, unless expressly stated otherwise, each feature disclosed is one example only of a generic series of equivalent or similar features.

[0071] The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing embodiment(s). The invention extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

Claims

1. A storage medium storing audio data and being capable of random accessing, wherein catalogue information related to the audio data is stored in a predetermined area of the storage medium.
2. The storage medium of claim 1, wherein the catalogue information includes common catalogue data for information commonly applied for the entire audio data recorded on the storage medium and title catalogue data having information corresponding to each distinct item of the audio data.
3. The storage medium of claim 2, wherein the catalogue information is image information produced by the DVD-Video specification, and wherein the storage medium includes a region for recording the audio data and an image information record region for recording the catalogue information.
4. The storage medium of claim 3, wherein the catalogue data includes a still picture for a background image, a sub-picture for a caption and navigation information for controlling the same.
5. The storage medium of claim 3, wherein the region for the audio data includes an audio data recording region for recording audio data and an audio information recording region for the entire audio data and/or audio data in units of distinct items of audio data, and catalogue playback information connecting the audio data to the catalogue information during playback is stored in the audio information recording region.
6. The storage medium of claim 5, wherein the catalogue playback information includes information on the location of the image information recording region in which the catalogue is recorded.
7. The storage medium of claim 6, wherein the catalogue playback information further includes a file identifier (ID) and an auto playback information table determining a location of the catalogue to be played back corresponding to a predetermined time in accordance with real-time playback information of audio obtained from the audio data during real-time playback.
8. A playback apparatus comprising:
 - storing means (250) for storing during playback audio data and catalogue information from a storage medium (210) in which there are present audio data, catalogue information formed of information related to the audio data, and catalogue playback information connecting the audio data and the catalogue information to each other;
 - a video decoder (270) for providing an image restored by decoding the catalogue information and additional information;

an audio decoder (260) for providing audio signals restored by decoding the audio data; and

a controller (240) controlling to be played back catalogue information corresponding to a selection of a user and the catalogue playback information.

9. The playback apparatus of claim 8, wherein the catalogue information includes common catalogue data for information commonly applied for the entire audio data recorded on the storage medium and title catalogue data having information on each distinct item of the audio data, and the catalogue data selected by the user under the control of the controller is read from the storing means (250).
10. The playback apparatus of claim 8 or 9, wherein the catalogue data is read from the storing means (250) by a predetermined sequence.
11. The playback apparatus of claim 8, 9 or 10, wherein the catalogue data stored in the storing means (250) is defined within a predetermined size.
12. The playback apparatus of any of claims 8 to 11, wherein the data size obtained by adding data of the common catalogue stored in the storing means (250) to data of one selected from the plurality of title catalogues is smaller than the capacity of the storing means (250).
13. The playback apparatus of claim 8, wherein the restored image is a still picture for the background, and the additional information is a sub-picture for transferring characters.
14. A method for playing back data on the storage medium storing audio data, catalogue information formed of information related to the audio data, and catalogue playback information connecting the audio data and the catalogue playback information to each other during playback, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) playing back the catalogue information corresponding to the catalogue playback information; and
 - (b) playing back audio data corresponding to the played back catalogue information.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein a region for the audio data includes an audio data recording region for recording audio data and an audio information recording region for the entire audio data and/or audio data in units of distinct items of audio data, where the catalogue playback information is stored

in the audio information record region.

16. The method of claim 14 or 15, wherein the storage medium includes a region for recording the audio data and an image information record region for recording the catalogue information, and wherein the catalogue information includes common catalogue data for information in common applied for the entire audio data recorded on the storage medium and title catalogue data having information corresponding to each distinct item of the audio data.
17. The method of claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the catalogue playback information includes information on a location of the image information record region where the catalogue is recorded.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the catalogue playback information further includes a file identifier and an auto presentation information table determining a location of the catalogue to be played back corresponding to a predetermined time in accordance with real-time playback information of audio obtained from the audio data during real-time playing back.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the catalogue data is played back according to a predetermined sequence stored in the auto presentation information table in step (a).
20. The method of claim 16, wherein the catalogue data selected by selection of a user is played back in step (a).
21. The method of claim 16, wherein the catalogue data selected by selection of a user is preferentially played back in step (a), and otherwise the catalogue data satisfies predetermined conditions to be played back.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the predetermined condition is the case of selecting no predetermined catalogue data for a predetermined time or setting a catalogue auto presentation mode.
23. The storage medium of claim 1, further comprising:
 - an audio region in which the audio data is stored; and
 - a video region in which the catalogue information is stored.
24. The storage medium of claim 23, wherein:
 - the audio region comprises: the audio management (AMG) region having management infor-

mation on the audio data, and a plurality of audio title sets (ATS) in which the audio data is recorded; and the video region comprises: a video management (VMG) region having management information on the catalogue information, and a video title set (VTS) in which at least one title catalogue of the catalogue information related to each item of the audio data is recorded.

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25. The storage medium of claim 24, wherein the VTS comprises information on still pictures formed of a plurality of the title catalogue and sub-pictures relating to the audio data, and navigation information for controlling the information on the still pictures and the sub-picture.

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26. The storage medium of claim 24, wherein the AMG region comprises catalogue playback information to connect the audio data and the catalogue information during playback.

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FIG. 1

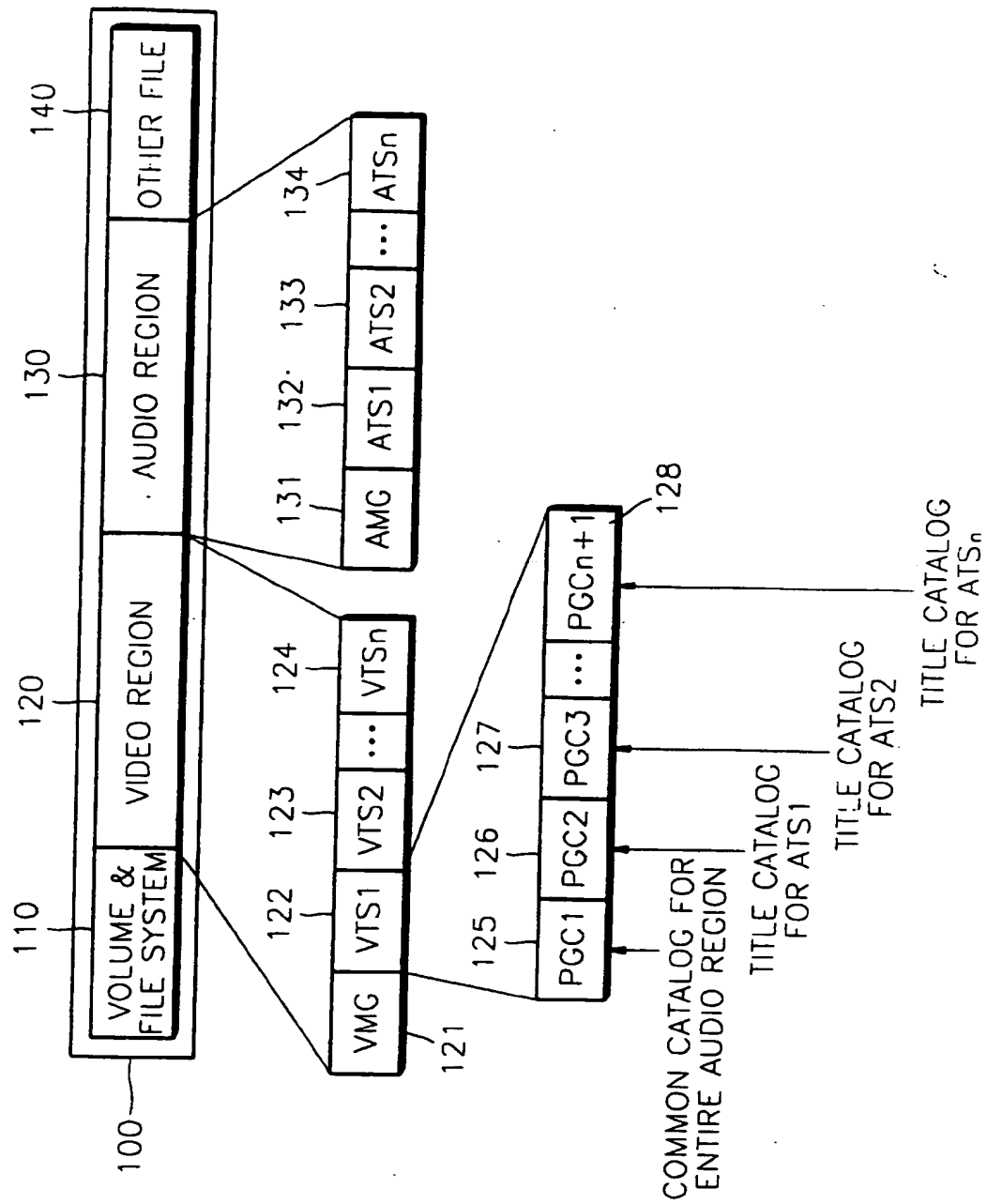
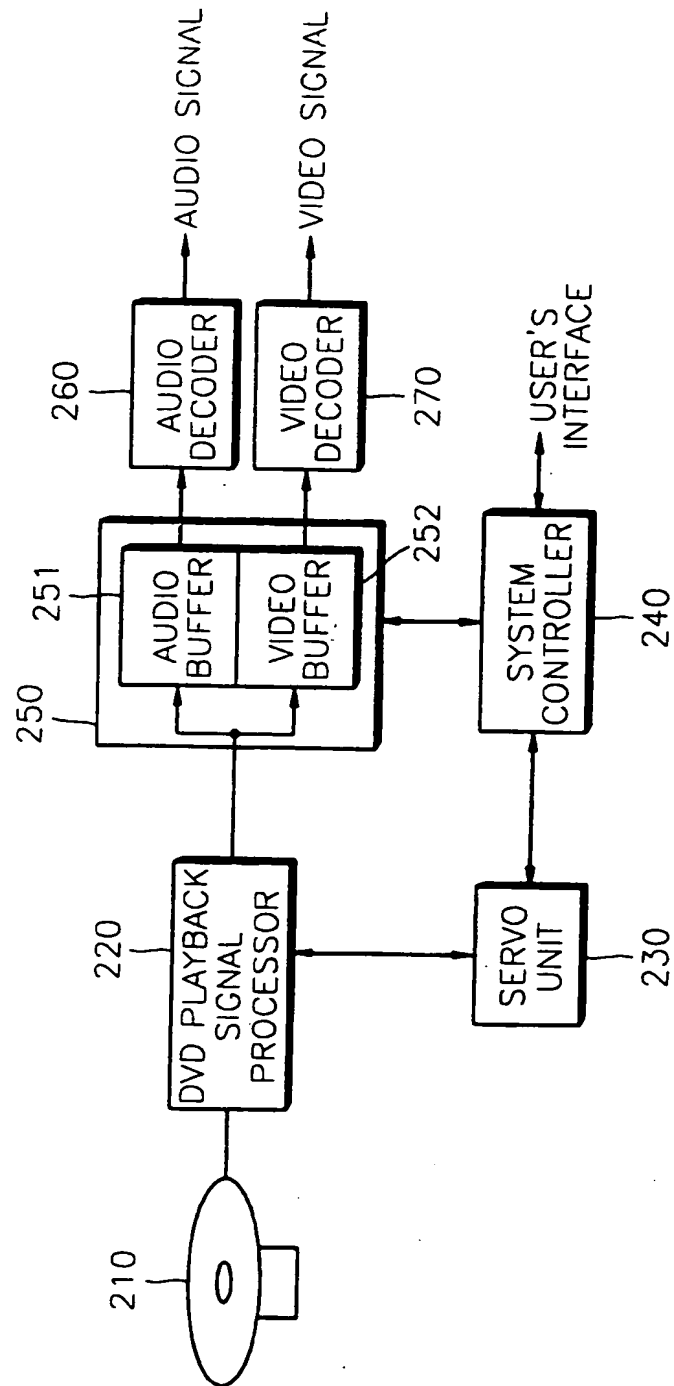


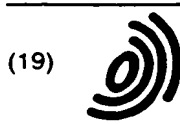
FIG. 2

FILE ID		
PCC # FOR ALL AUDIO TITLES	FILE POINTER FOR CATALOG	AUTO PRESENTATION INFORMATION TABLE1
PCC # FOR AUDIO TITLE1	FILE POINTER FOR CATALOG	AUTO PRESENTATION INFORMATION TABLE2
PCC # FOR AUDIO TITLE2	FILE POINTER FOR CATALOG	AUTO PRESENTATION INFORMATION TABLE3
...
PCC # FOR AUDIO TITLE _n	FILE POINTER FOR CATALOG	AUTO PRESENTATION INFORMATION TABLE _{n+1}

FIG. 3



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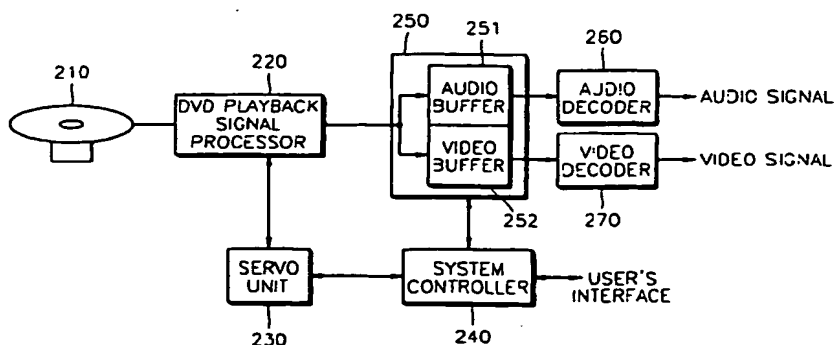
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(54) Storage medium storing catalogue information and apparatus and method for playing back catalogue information

(57) A storage medium for storing catalogue information and catalogue information playback apparatus and method are provided. By the method, catalogue information formed of a still picture and additional information together with audio data are recorded on a storage medium such as a DVD (210), which is an optical record storage medium, and the catalogue information is played back during playback of audio, to thereby pro-

vide various information on the audio. Also, the apparatus includes a buffer memory (250) for catalogue playback maintaining the predetermined standard and compatibility, and capable of real-time reading during playback of audio, and automatically playing back the catalogue content, corresponding to the playback state of the audio data, when there is no additional selection of a user.

FIG. 3





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 1621

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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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